

REMARKS

Claims 31-61 were rejected. Claims 31-44, 46, and 60 are cancelled. Claims 45, 47, 58, 59, and 61 are amended. No new matter is added. Claims 45, 47-59, and 61 are now pending. The above amendments and the following remarks are considered by Applicants to overcome each rejection raised by the Examiner and to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner objected to the Abstract submitted by Applicants. As indicated above, Applicants provide a replacement Abstract that is less than 150 words and less than 15 lines. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection.

The Examiner rejected claims 31 and 60, contending that the language “said at least one reference wavelength region being at least approximately invariant with respect to medically relevant information from the object to be examined” is indefinite. Applicants have cancelled these claims and removed this claim language from remaining claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

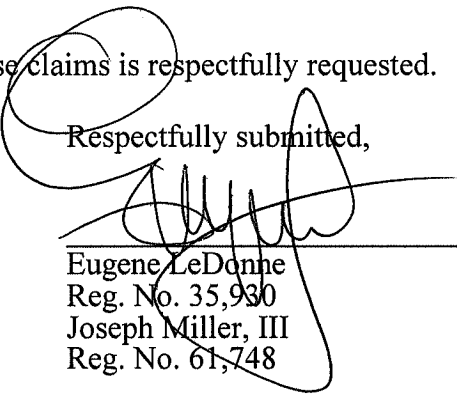
The Examiner objected to claims 40, 58-59, and 60 for lack of clarity. Claim 40 is cancelled, claims 58-59 have been amended as suggested, and claim 61 contains the suggested amendments to claim 60. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner’s statement that claims 45, 47-59, and 61 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have rewritten the claims to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, and have included the limitations of the amended base claims and intervening claims in claims 45, 47-59, and 61. Further, Applicants have cancelled the claims subject to rejection pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance.

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An early action on the merits of these claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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